

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 11-28-2021

For You as the Teacher/Host

Remember to begin each Small Group session with a word of prayer. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this curriculum guide is to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord and each other through conversation that intentionally engages the weekly message.

Quick Review Discuss the message briefly. Did anything challenge or confuse you?

***Opener Question or Activity:** What type of gift have you ever received that you weren't expecting and was extraordinary? What feelings did you experience?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Luke 1:1-25, 57-80 "Zechariah's Song"

Digging Deeper: John 3

1. Read John 3:1-3 aloud. Notice the difference between what Nicodemus says and the answer that Jesus gives? Can you articulate the question that was behind Nicodemus' statement? Have you ever asked God this question?
2. Read vs. 3-8 aloud. How many times is the concept of the second birth mentioned in those 6 verses? Point them all out to each other.
3. Verse 8 tells us that people who are born of the Spirit are like the wind. What is the evidence of new life in someone? Have you been born again? If you are sure, when was it? If you are unsure, talk about that to the group.
4. Read aloud vs. 9-10. What ideas do you have as to why Jesus asked Nicodemus why he didn't "understand these things?"
5. Read John 3:16 to yourself. What in your Christian life have you drawn from this verse?
6. What is the reality and importance of the light that Jesus is speaking of in vs. 19-21? How does it impact you that you are either in the light or you are not? Is there any in between?

Apply it today

Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?